

Thank you!!!! To those who served.



A week or so ago I asked that our membership who served in the military send something in about their service that we could post in this Veteran’s Day newsletter. Their stories are below and they are good. Thank you for doing this. However, in an effort to help the Legislative Reference Library’s veteran’s analog, we plan on reviewing the member’s roster going back to the 48th Legislature in 1941 to possibly recognize those we know who served. Also if any of you vets want to respond we’ll see that the library gets your story.

Commissioner Jerry Patterson

My fellow Marine, and our friend and Editor-in-Chief of *The Capitol Post*, asked me to write something about Veterans Day. There’s a lot that can be written about those who raised their hand and swore an oath to “...uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic...”. I’m sure there will be multiple columns available for us to read this week so I thought I’d write something a bit different and share what I learned in 24 years of active and reserve service in the USMC.

On a hot summer evening in June 1966, I and about 20 other young men arrived by bus at some God forsaken assemblage of Quonset huts in the middle of nowhere at 3:00 AM. Several screaming voices told us to “get off the bus, and fall in alphabetically according to height”. I’m sure the Marine D.I.’s got a good laugh watching us scramble. I know we weren’t laughing.

As a kid that grew up with a deep East Texas influence I had the usual prejudices you would expect, but I had begun to grow out of those prejudices except for my dislike of Yankees. Well, after a few weeks at that hell hole known as Camp Upshur, I realized something. It didn’t matter where we came from – Yankees were just like I was except they talked funny. It didn’t matter who our Daddy was or how much money he made. It didn’t matter what kind of car we had back home and it didn’t matter what the color our skin was or how hard it might be to pronounce someone’s last name. Regardless of those differences we were all going to be Marines.

What I learned was military service is a great “democratizer”. I’m not sure that’s a real word but you get my point. I learned to measure my peers by what they did, not where they came from.

No one has ever expressed this better than a Jewish Chaplain, Lt. Roland B. Gittlesohn, USN, in his dedicatory sermon on 21 March 1945 at the temporary Marine cemetery on Iwo Jima. An excerpt from Lt. Gittlesohn’s sermon follows.

“Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding and other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores.

Here lie officers and men, Negroes and whites, rich men and poor---together. Here are Protestants, Catholics, and Jews---together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color.

Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men there is no discrimination.
No prejudice. No hatred.
Theirs is the highest and purest democracy”.
Today’s America could learn a lot from Lt. Gittlesohn.

Speaker Gib Lewis

Mike, Glad you are giving note to our Veterans. I know personally that the years I spent in The Air Force were some of the best years of my life. The friendships I made there were on par with the friendships I made in the Texas Legislature. Both group of people were the best this country has to offer. And I will always take pride of standing shoulder to shoulder with some of the finest people I had the pleasure of working with!
Gib Lewis

Ambassador Chase Untermeyer

Mike: I served in the Navy during Vietnam aboard a Pacific Fleet destroyer and as aide to the commander of US naval forces in the Philippines. During the Reagan Administration, I was a senior civilian appointee in the Navy Department.
We should honor both the service and the memory of our House classmate Frank Tejeda, who was a combat Marine during Vietnam. He was one of the finest members of the Legislature in our time. Frank died of a brain tumor in 1997 while a member of Congress, a great loss to the country.
Thanks, Chase

Rep. Clint Hackney

My Dad and Charlie Wilson both worked for Arthur Temple who built Temple Industries that became Temple Inland here in Austin. (Arthur also gave us State Rep. Buddy Temple)
So what does that have to do with my walk through the military? Well, to me, a whole hell of a lot. My father and Charlie were the two most influential people in my life. I grew up down the street from Charlie, mowed his yard for spending money as a school boy and found out what a State Senator was and that he was one.
My Dad was an engineer and was President of Temple’s Construction Company. Charlie was in charge of Temple’s lumber yard, the Big Tin Barn in Diboll. So they didn’t work together much, but Dad got me a job with Senator Wilson loading, stacking, and cutting lumber on the weekends. I can’t recall what year that was, but I remember the year we became friends. Charlie had a way of developing friendships. So what does any of that have to do with my time in the military?
Well, it was 1970, my Senior year of High School and I had joined the the Young Republicans at Lufkin High. Charlie was upset about that, and over about 6 months in little 30 minute discussions, I came to know why I was a Democrat. Well..... what did all that have to do with me being a soldier?
So it was my Senior year and I had to decide on a college. I wanted to go to Baylor because my older sister was already there and I had looked around there and I already had some friends. My Dad had raised me to be a Fight’n Texas Aggie and there were serious discussions and I put my foot down and said I’m gonna be a Baylor Bear.
And then the phone rang.....and I still refer to it as “ThE Big Call”. It was Charlie. He wanted me to meet him at his house to talk about A&M, the Corps of Cadets, and some historyit was probably the most important talk I ever had with anybody one on one. It wasn’t about the Universities or my Dad. It was about American history, his time at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, what he knew about the Corps of Cadets at A&M, and his thoughts about the Viet Nam War that was heating up. (He could have mentioned that my father had served in World II, both in Germany and the Philippines in the end, but he chose not to.) Charlie finished with something that seemed odd at the time. But I never forgot it. And it helped me understand what he was doing somewhat unguarded or unarmed in Aphganastan. He had always talked to me about his time in the Navy. He loved it. But after he was done he told me he wished he had seen more action. His closing is what I’ve never forgotten. He said (and I think this is word for word.) He said, “if you’re in the military and you ever have a chance to jump into the heat of battle, do itit’s like George Washington said - the sound of a lead bullet flying past your ear is the most exilerating thing I know of.” Then he said something about friends who were exposed to battle and died, and that he had guilt feelings off and on because he and others weren’t with them.
Anyway, a few days later I told my family I wanted to go to A&M and join the Corps of Cadets. The first 2 years in the Aggie Corps were very difficult in those days and the drop out rate was high. (All you had to do was change some classes and find a different room.) The moment of truth came a short time prior to the end of your Sophomore year. Did You wanna be a soldier? Did you wanna go to Viet Nam. Did you wanna go through more trainingmentally, cognitively, and physically. If so, you had to sign a 3 year contract that would take you beyond your college graduation. If you signed, then you would be sent to one summer for Officer training as well as an optional specialty training another summer. Once that was done and you graduated college you would be assigned a deployment.

I signed the contract.
I chose the specialty - Paratrooper....2 months at Fort Benning, Georgia
I went to mandatory Officer training2months at Ft Riley, Kansas
When I got my diploma I was assigned to Ft Gordon, Georgia because I had been trained for Military Police Duty. I had married my High School Sweetheart as soon as I graduated and she and I arrived at Gordon mid-January 1975. Some of you, especially those of you you fought overseas, may recall the spring of '75. However, before I get to the end, I must give you a few events, trials and learning experiences that I had those 2 months in training at Ft. Riley. You must have a taste of these experiences in order to understand my feelings when I finished at Ft. Gordon.
Officer training was fairly expansive in that we were taught to do almost everything. Also, Officers tend to have more education and that's "book education". But there were many like, me, who had never hammered a nail, used a screw driver or lifted a log. (I did have experience sawing lumber at the Big Tin Barn in Diboll though). So when my first event was to learn the ins and outs of commanding a tank I had some problems. Firing a cannon from a tank is somewhat close to thinking you're dying until you do it a few times. And then there was thinking that a hand Grenade was like throwing a baseball. My first toss was over a low stone fence and I had been told that all you had to do was duck, but I was showered with stones.
I made it through the whole deal and even got a chance to do 2 parachute jumps from a chopper (I don't even think they do that any more).
But there was one great moment at Riley that gave me extreme confidence and belief that America could take over the world, win any war, scare away anything.
I can't recall the caliber of the bullets, but here's the deal. This machine gun with big ol' lead bullets took a team of 2 in order to do things right. One dude would be holding a heavy belt of bullets. The partner would yell commands and at the sound of "GO" - one holding the belt and the other holding the heaviest thing I've ever held....and both charge into the enemy. The gun man was me. When the command from behind gave CHARGE I could charge if ready. So the first time I charged immediately so I could hit the ground quickly 'cause it was so friggin' heavy. then for the first time ever I pulled the trigger and the whole friggin' place exploded with deadly bullets. Killing trees animals, dummy people and anything in their path.
The next day I felt like Superman. But the after that I was on my way back to College Station.
So I left you at mid January of 1975. My wife and I were living in an apartment at Ft Gordon Georgia. I was still in a training mode but we were all expecting to leave for Viet Nam until until our group of Officers were called to the Auditorium for an update on the War. It was simple. The Officer in Charge explained the details of the situation in Nam and summarized that the War was over. All of our troops were already withdrawing. It was done.
What it meant for my group was that we had options. We could continue at Gordon with a crowded situation. Or we could take a new Station. Or we could terminate our Army Contract.
It was easy for me. I wanted to go home. On April 1st 1975 I was discharged. After a couple of hours watching television coverage of the choppers carrying away as many folks as they could, my wife and I packed up our little Volkswagen Bug and drove back to Texas.
I'm not much like Charlie Wilson....but maybe in one way....
I, like him, sometimes have guilt feelings, don't know why. I guess just times like this.
There was George Barrett, Bill Haass, Tommy Randolphwhy couldn't I get there?
And Oh! Let's leave on a lighter note
Charlie lived out his last years at Crown Colony in Lufkin across the 16th Hole where my parents had lived. It was a small but comfortable home. In the Living Room near the fireplace was a plaque on some stone that had a quote for everyone to see. It said, "My spirit will go to Afghanistan, though my soul might go to God, but remember my last words to you.....Never trust a Russian."

Rep. Charles Evans

Joined the US Navy when I graduated from high school. I was sworn in on August 12, 1957 and was discharged August 11, 1961.
I was primarily stationed at North Island Naval Airbase in San Diego, California with squadron VAW 11.
During that time I served on 3 aircraft carriers, USS Lexington CVA 17, USS Midway CVA 41 and USS Coral Sea CVA 43.
My classification was AE 2 or aviation electrician petty officer 2nd class primarily I repaired aircraft instruments.

Sen. Kim Brimer

Brimer, Kenneth "Kim" - U S Air Force Reserve & Texas Air National Guard, 1969-1975, Tech Sergeant, Avionics, Auto Pilot

Sen. Joe Christie

Hello Mike:

Senator Joe Christie (El Paso): Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps, 1954-62. First responder, crash crew.

Thanks,

Joe

Sen. Steve Ogden

Mike, I graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1973; I was on active duty from 1973-83.....served in submarines, reached the rank of LCDR. and was certified as a naval nuclear engineer. The taxpayers invested a great deal in me and hopefully they got their money's worth.... served at the height of the cold war, but unlike thousands of Viet Nam vets was never shot at or wounded. On this veterans day "my thanks for your service" are to the combat veterans of Viet Nam. Non Sibi

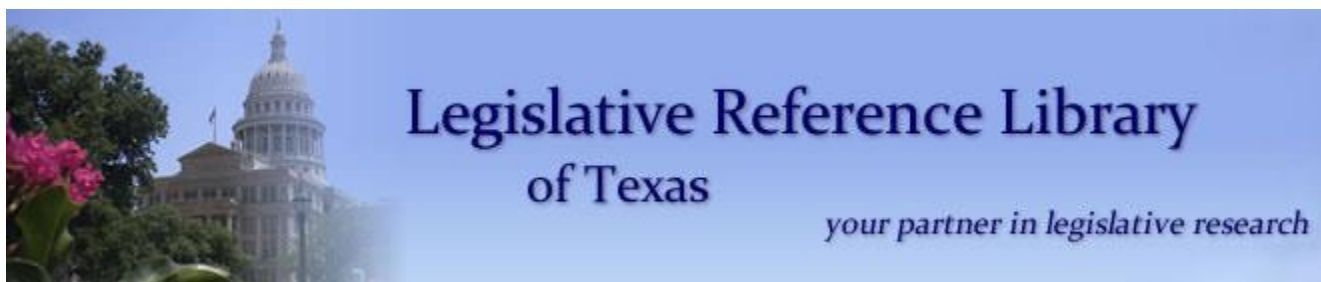
Non sibi is one of three inveterate mottos that appear across the seal of Phillips Exeter Academy. Χάρτι Θεοῦ, which is Greek for the phrase "By the grace of God," borders the top of the image's oval frame. Finis origine pendet, which is Latin for "the end depends on the beginning," runs along the bottom of the emblem. Non sibi, which is Latin for "not for self," sits within the scene—inscribed within the body of a rising sun.

Rep. Terral Smith

I was drafted after my first year of law school in 1969. After basic training at Fort Bliss, Tx I was offered the opportunity to attend Officers Candidate School since I had a college degree. I turned it down because it would have required an extra ten months in the military and I wanted to get back to law school as soon as I could. I was subsequently sent to Fort Polk, La. as a Private First Class for Advanced Infantry Training and ten months later I was a Corporal with orders for Vietnam. When I arrived in Nam, they needed someone for a Military History Unit that consisted of four officers and four enlisted men. Since I had a college degree in History I was ordered to report to that unit.

It ended up being a good gig. I had orders that allowed me to travel anywhere I wanted in Viet Nam to interview field grade officers before they went home on their experiences. I would go to any helicopter pad, and when one landed, show them my orders and off we went.

I returned from Nam in May 1971 as a sergeant, was discharged two days later and re-enrolled in Law School. Military service was something I did not choose and something I was upset with at the time, but ended up being one of the best experiences of my life.



Our wonderful library has put together a comprehensive list of state officials who were veterans, going back to the 20th session in 1887 when our Governor was Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Please review this to see if you are listed. If not please let us know and we'll coordinate with the Director of the LRL Mary Camp for additions and corrections.

Military service information is complete for the 20th - 87th Legislatures, where identified in obituaries, biographical sketches, memorial resolutions, military grave markers, or other biographical information. Military service information may be added as new evidence arises.

[file:///C:/Users/Mike/Downloads/Members%20-%20Military%20service%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Mike/Downloads/Members%20-%20Military%20service%20(1).pdf)

WE DON'T KNOW THEM ALL, BUT WE OWE THEM ALL

The Texas State Senate has put together an incredible collection of Senate military veterans. Congratulations on this awesome historical record. See the 42 page pdf document below. They have a new version and we'll send it asap.

https://lrl.texas.gov/scanned/sirsi/L1803.5_SE55H_2017.pdf

The Youngest living Medal of Honor Recipient



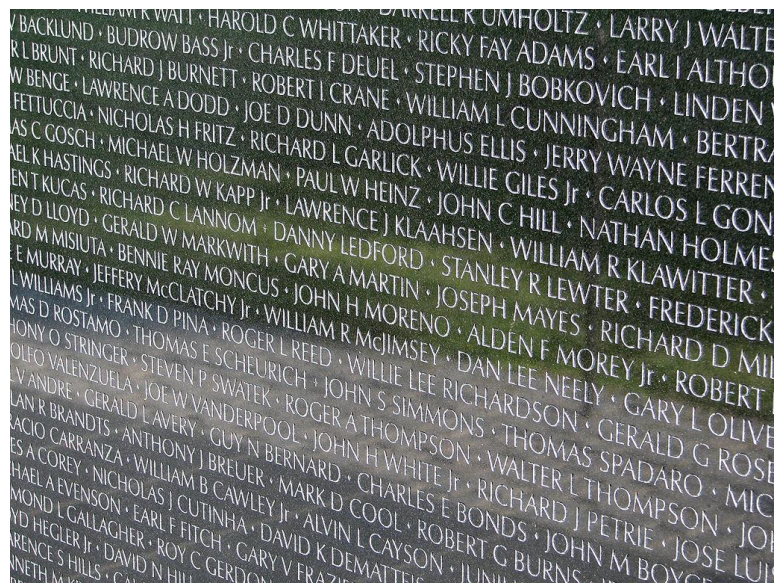
This is the inspiring story of Kyle Carpenter, a nineteen year old out of Mississippi who joined the Marine Corps in 2009. Two years later after a tour in Iraq he was deployed to Afghanistan. While in a firefight he jumped on an enemy grenade to save his fellow Marine.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2Mb3-P-Veg>

VIETNAM WALL



First, click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city where you went to high school and look at the names.

Click on the name and it will give details of the person's death, a picture, or at least their bio and medals.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

Thank you again!



Gen. Robert Neller, USMC, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, who recently retired from service. Like Bowie, Crockett and Sam Houston he moved to Texas.



IN MEMORIAM



Rep. Dan Flynn

78th – 86th , 2003 – 2021

Van Zandt

2 – 21 – 1943/ 10 – 28 – 2022

Interment Wednesday, November 9 at 2 PM

Texas State Cemetery

909 Navasota Street Austin, Texas 78702

Virginia Carter

We have been informed that Virginia Carter has passed away. She is Rep. Bill Carter’s wife. Bill passed away in 2018. Virginia was the daughter of former Speaker and Attorney General Waggoner Carr. We will provide more information when it is available.

NEW MEMBERS



Rep. Parker McCullough
71st – 72nd, 1989 – 1993
Williamson



Rep. Tom Cartlidge
64th, 1975
Clay

MEMBER’S RECOVERING

Mayor Sylvester Turner

Our colleague announced a few days ago that he was diagnosed with a form of bone cancer. Sylvester, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/houston/2022/11/02/436566/mayor-sylvester-turner-says-he-was-diagnosed-with-cancer-underwent-radiation-over-summer/>

Mayor Sylvester Turner revealed Wednesday that he was diagnosed with cancer this summer, for which he had surgery and received six weeks of radiation treatment. Turner said he went to the dentist for a root canal, and doctors ultimately found osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer, in his jaw. He had surgery for nine hours on June 30, the Houston mayor said, followed by an eight-day hospital stay and weeks of radiation in August and September. Turner discussed the illness publicly for the first time in a question-and-answer discussion with former ABC-13 anchor Tom Koch after his seventh annual "State of the City" address.

"I've also had my own personal medical situation. For all of my life, I've been the healthiest ever," Turner said. "I go to the dentist to get a root canal, on my way to France with the trade mission. Doctors come and say, 'Well, it's a little bit more than a root canal.'" The mayor said he got a biopsy, and just before departing for France doctors told him he would not be able to make the trip. During the operation, Turner said surgeons took part of his leg bone to restructure his jaw. He had radiation every weekday morning at 7:30 from Aug. 1 to Sept. 12. "Back at City Council that day, I continued to do what I needed to do in the city of Houston. Let me tell you, I have been blessed," Turner said to applause. "As I look at the seven federally declared disasters, and then I look at what I've had to endure myself, and then you bounce back. What I would say to you is this is an incredible, incredible city." Turner was referring to the seven disasters he has responded to in his tenure as mayor." - Quorum Report

Omega Chisum

We are informed that Omega, wife of our colleague Warren, was diagnosed with cancer. Omega and Warren, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Speaker Dade Phelan Previewing the 88th

NEWS > CULTURE > FOOD > MUSIC

TRIBFEST CONTINUED FROM P.17

Previewing the 88th

Finding common ground in both chambers and parties

BY MAGGIE G. THOMPSON

The 88th Texas Legislature, to be elected Nov. 8 and to convene on Jan. 10, faces the herculean task of lawmaking in a sharply divided country and state with rapidly developing life-or-death issues on the agenda. At four consecutive panels at The Texas Tribune Festival on Friday, Sept. 23, Democratic and Republican members and candidates in both chambers said they hope the 88th will be a session remembered for bipartisan compromises and solutions to "kitchen table" problems. All seemed to agree on the most urgent issues at hand.



Texas House Speaker Dade McPhelan, R-Beaumont

JANA BIRCHUM

THE GRID AND PROPERTY TAXES

State Sen. César Blanco, D-El Paso, said voters want the Legislature to address "bread and butter" issues; Republicans did, too, but took aim at renewable energy. Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford – expected to replace Sen. Beverly Powell, D-Burleson, in November – said subsidizing renewables "skewed the market," while Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, said, "We want renewables ... But in the meantime, we have to be practical to realize, it doesn't always blow. When it's blowing and it's shining, we should take advantage of that. But when it's not, we've got to have dispatchable power because everyone expects to walk in and flip a switch ... Right now natural gas would be that power."

On property taxes, Democrats and Republicans all agreed that their constituents are hurting. Former Sen. Pete Flores, R-Pleasanton – expected to return to the chamber in November – said appraisal districts should make their appraisals in a more uniform way across counties. Sen. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston, said, "Some on the other side like sound bites when it comes to property tax relief and so far what I've seen delivered ... doesn't really put anything on the table for the taxpayer." Instead, she said the state can increase its share in education funding to lower local property tax rates.

GUN VIOLENCE

Nichols, who chairs the Texas Senate's Uvalde investigation committee, said he was open to the possibility of raising the age to buy semi-automatic weapons from 18 to 21, an idea also considered by the House's Uvalde panel. "There's a lot that changes in a person's life in those three years. All of the school shooters are between the age of 13 and 19; they're all males," Nichols said. "When you're somewhere between 13 and 19, your life revolves around school. You go to classes, you've got friends, you've got bullies, you've got it all. ... By the time you're 21, you're either in college, you've found another job, you've gone to work, and there's separation." Gun violence in Texas extends far beyond schools; Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, pointed out that hundreds more Texans die each year at the hands of intimate partners with guns. She also emphasized the need for compromise, as opposed to "the winner-take-all aspect of current leadership."

THE BORDER

While the Republican and Democratic panels took on entirely different tones while discussing Gov. Greg Abbott's expensive Operation Lone Star, which has brought thousands of law enforcement officers and Texas National Guard troops to the border, both parties acknowledged issues with it. Kevin Sparks, the Midland Republican expected to succeed Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, said while state troopers are intent on doing their part to serve, many are saying, "This is not what I signed up for."

Meanwhile, Morgan LaMantia, the Democrat expected to succeed retiring Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr., D-Brownsville, called Operation Lone Star "political theatre. ... We need the governor to come down, talk to our local entities, talk to our local communities, our cities, our counties, and our nonprofits who are really taking on the brunt of the efforts to help everyone who's coming over," LaMantia said. "What's happening when you don't have border voices involved in those conversations is you've got one side saying, 'We're safe and secure and there is no problem,' and ignoring it altogether, and we get the other side talking about how we live in a Third World area and it's the middle of a war zone. Neither one of those are true."

Eckhardt jumped in to say that immigration, which is not under the state's control, is a distraction from the real problems Texas leaders do have the power to solve, like a foster care system that's in shambles, with kids dying in the state's custody. "If the state persists in blaming the feds, and blaming the locals, and then diverting our attention to

stuff that the state doesn't actually have authority in, we won't ever get to a solution." But Flores, echoing LaMantia, noted that real migrants are having a real impact in real places in Texas. "When you're overwhelmed, your community doesn't have the resources – they barely have enough money in some of these towns for their own selves, much less thousands [of migrants]. Where the federal government will not do its job, Texas must."

TEACHERS AND VOUCHERS

Texas teachers are fleeing for the exits, and both parties agree "school choice" proposals touted by Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, built on vouchers to transfer state funding to private schools, won't fix that problem. Sparks said that without improving their work conditions, "we're going to continue to lose teachers."

Nichols took a strong stance against the "school choice" framing, saying private schools can be selective while public charter schools use lotteries if they have too many prospective students. "That's not a choice, that's a chance." In rural areas, he said, reducing student populations reduces funding for all the things that still need to be done in a small classroom – keeping the lights on, busing kids to school, paying a janitor, and other basic costs.

"It doesn't work for rural Texas," Nichols said. "I don't know why they – I love my governor, and I'm gonna vote for him and I encourage everybody else to vote for him, and same thing with my lieutenant governor, and I

know the lieutenant governor is campaigning for him, but I think they're just wrong. The governor's wrong on this issue and I'd love an opportunity to talk to him about it."

POST-ROE TEXAS

Nichols also said he'd support a bill to create an exception to Texas' abortion bans in cases of rape. How rape is defined could become a sticking point, as Democrats discussed later; Eckhardt was firm that a conviction for rape or incest not be a prerequisite to the survivor's seeking abortion (getting a conviction can take longer than the course of a pregnancy).

Extension of Medicaid coverage to women for 12 months postpartum is less likely to snag in the Legislature; both Republicans and Democrats have expressed support, as did House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, in his one-on-one earlier in the day at TribFest. Along similar lines, Nichols pointed to a bill he'll file to give at least four weeks of paid maternity leave to state employees, with two weeks for fathers. Democrats highlighted the need for updated language on abortions to treat risky situations such as ectopic pregnancies, but King's comments emphasized how difficult such changes may be: "The far left side of the Democratic Party, which dominates that party nationally today – they are not wanting minor exceptions. It is a very radical push that wants abortion up unto literally the day the child is born."

18 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 austinchronicle.com

William P. Hobby Jr. State Office Building in Austin to be demolished



<https://austin.towers.net/pay-your-final-respects-to-downtown-austins-long-suffering-hobby-building/>

The Capitol Post

OPINION -EDITORIAL

TEXANS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

-Chase Untermeyer

Texans have played a role in US foreign policy as far back as the early statehood period. In the 19th century, there were several Texas ambassadors, most notably Mirabeau B. Lamar, third president of the Republic of Texas, whom President Buchanan sent to Argentina, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

But the major role of Texans in world affairs began in the 20th century.

“Colonel” Edward M. House was born in Houston just before the Civil War, the son of a wealthy merchant and early mayor. He later moved to Austin, because it was cooler. Spared having to work for a living by his inheritance, House devoted himself to state politics, electing several governors and senators. Then in 1912 he helped

elect a president, Woodrow Wilson. Though never on a government payroll, House performed functions for Wilson we now call White House chief of staff, personnel director, and national security advisor. In the latter role, he sailed several times to Europe, seeking unsuccessfully to arrange a truce during World War I. After the war, House was the prime US negotiator of the Treaty of Versailles.

In the next war, the assistant secretary of State for economic affairs was Will Clayton, who had founded the Houston cotton brokerage firm of Anderson Clayton. (His business partner was a gentleman named M.D. Anderson.) It was Clayton who conceived and implemented the Marshall Plan – named for his boss, George Marshall -- that saved the devastated nations of Western Europe.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during this same period was Tom Connally (no kin to the later governor, John B. Connally). A former member of the Texas House from Marlin, Connally was one of the US signatories of the United Nations Charter in 1945.

In our time, there have been the presidents from Texas: Lyndon B. Johnson, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush. Secretary of State for the first President Bush was his fellow Houstonian James A. Baker III. Together they successfully oversaw the end of the Cold War, reunited Germany, and ousted Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

And we can't omit the former Texas state legislators who have served as ambassadors in the modern era: Lyndon Olson (Sweden), Tom Schieffer (Australia and Japan), Kay Bailey Hutchison (NATO), and Chase Untermeyer (Qatar). Serving today as ambassador to Iceland is Carrin Patman of Houston, daughter of the late State Senator and Congressman Bill Patman.

* * *

BULLOCK STORIES

By Judge Jeff Wentworth

In one of his more ill-advised remarks, Lieutenant Governor Bullock stated publicly about Senator Judith Zaffirini that, "She could get any legislation passed if she cut her skirt off about six inches and put on high heels." Well, the press was all over that faux pas on his part and figured they could start a public spat by reporting that she was offended by his ham-handed remark and retort in kind, and they'd be off to the races.

When asked whether she was offended by Bullocks remarks, she gave him a pass,

saying that he was of an older generation with a different sense of humor, that he had said the same thing at her recent fundraiser in her home in Laredo, and that she was not offended.

A week or so after this happened, six or eight senators were having lunch in the Senators private dining room, including Senator Zaffirini, Senator Whitmire and me, and Senator Whitmire said to Judith “Okay, Judy, you can tell us the truth; theres nobody but us senators here. You had to be offended by Bullocks remarks.”

But she remained consistent and said that she was not offended, that he had said the same thing in her presence previously, and that it was harmless . . . but then added “But there was one time when he did say something that offended me.”

“Well, tell us, Judy,” Whitmire said, “what did he say?” And Zaffirini said that on the first day of the regular session in early January, she came to the Senate floor early and was the first senator to arrive. The only other people there were Bullock and his wife. Bullock turned to his wife and said, “Jan, in just a few minutes I’ll make history in this chamber by naming Senator Zaffirini the first woman senator to chair a standing committee of the Texas Senate . . . and then the damn ____ will drive us all crazy.”

“Now that offended me,” Zaffirini said.

IN CONCLUSION

Thank you for staying with us this far. Please check your contacts for former legislators and let us know so we can add them. Also give us a shout if you hear of any news about members such as illness, injury or passing. Before we drift away, let’s pause and remember a great release almost fifty years ago, in 1973 by the fantastic, Dobie Gray.

DRIFT AWAY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIuyDWzctgY>

Lyrics

Day after day I'm more confused
Yet I look for the light through the pouring rain
You know that's a game that I hate to lose
And I'm feelin' the strain
Ain't it a shame

Oh, give me the beat boys and free my soul
I wanna get lost in your rock and roll and drift away
Oh, give me the beat boys and free my soul
I wanna get lost in your rock and roll and drift away